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Message Text

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62
ACTION AF-18

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INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 041258Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7339
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MI, TZ
SUBJ: MCP CONVENTION DISCUSSES MALAWI/TANZANIA RELATIONS

REF: A. BLANTYRE 1018
B. BLANTYRE 1141

1. MALAWI-TANZANIA RELATIONS WERE FOCUS OF ANNUAL MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY CONVENTION ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 3. VISITING TANU REPS, NDUGU ENOS MWANGOKA (REGIONAL TANU CHAIRMAN MBEYA) AND NDUGU ALAN HEREI (KILWA DISTRICT SECRETARY), AFTER AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT BANDA SPOKE WITH ADMIRATION OF NEW MALAWI CAPITAL AT LILONGWE AND DESCRIBED PROGRESS ON THEIR NEW CAPITAL OF DODOMA. BLANTYRE DAILY TIMES CONTINUED TO CITE EVIDENCE OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING TANZANIA.

2. ON CONVENTION FLOOR ITSELF DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE PREVAILED AS DELEGATES ASSAILED TANZANIAN POSITION ON ALLEGED MERCENARY PRESENCE IN MALAWI AND DEMANDED A REPLY TO PRESIDENT BANDA'S EARLIER TELEGRAM (REF A) CALLING FOR OAU INVESTIGATION. SEVEN MINISTERS AND OTHER PARTY LEADERS JOINED IN DEBATE, SEVERAL
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CALLING FOR APOLOGY FROM TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT. EDUCATION

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MINISTER MUNYENYEBE (WHOSE HOME DISTRICT ABUTS SOUTHER TANZANIA) SAID TANZANIAN ACTION ALLOWING PUBLICATION OF INJURIOUS TANZANIA DAILY TIMES ARTICLE DID NOT INDICATE THERE WAS GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MALAWI AND TANZANIA. YOUTH MINISTER CHAKUAMBA PHIRI SAID EVERY YEAR TANZANIANS ATTACKED MALAWI WITH FALSE ALLEGATIONS WHEREAS MALAWI NEVER "HIT BACK." HE ADDED THAT TANZANIA SHOULD "STOP AT ONCE" WITH IDEA OF FEDERATING MOZAMBIQUE WITH TANZANIA SINCE PEOPOLE OF MOZANBIQUE ARE NOT SWAHILI SPEAKING BUT SENA, YAO AND LOMWE, "SAME PEOPLE WHO ARE FOUND IN MALAWI." SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS EMPHASIZED THEME THAT MOZAMBIQUANS AND MALAWIANS ARE FLESH AND BLOOD BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT BANDA APPEARS TO HAVE CHOSEN DOUBLE-PRONG APPROACH TO DEALING WITH MALAWI-TANZANIAN RELATIONS. ON ONE HAND HE HAS DEALT CIVILLY BOTH IN PERSON AND IN PRESS WITH VISITING TANZANIAN DELEGATION. ON OTHER HAND COORDINATED ATTACKS ON CONVENTION FLOOR BY MINISTERS, CLEARLY LAUNCHED AT BANDA'S BEHEST, INDICATE HE HAS NEITHER FORGIVEN NOR FORGOTTEN TANZANIAN ALLEGATION RE MERCENARIES.

4. COMMENT: MINISTER CHAKUAMBA PHIRI'S STATEMENT ON MOZAMBIQUE FEDERATION WITH TANZANIA AND OTHER MINISTERS' REMARKS ON KINSHIP BETWEEN MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE PEOPLES ARE HIGHLY INTERESTING. RUMORS OF TANZANIAN PLANS FOR ANNEXATION OR FEDERATION HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING LOCALLY FOR PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. PRESIDENT BANDA IS SENSITIVE TO SUCH REPORTS, WHETHER OR NOT FOUNDED IN FACT, OWING TO MALAWI'S DEPENDENCE ON MOZAMBIQUE ACCESS LINES AND BANDA'S NATURAL INCLINATION TO DISTRUST MOTIVES OF NYERERE AND THOSE FRELIMO HE CONSIDERS TO BE UNDER COMMUNIST INFLUENCE. THAT HE SAW FIT TO AUTHORIZE ISSUANCE OF MILD WARNING TO MCP CONVENTION INDICATES HIS SENSITIVITY HAS REACHED POINT OF OPEN CONCERN ABOUT TANZANIAN OBJECTIVES WITH RESPECT TO INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE. STEVENSON

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